

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CORFE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 1st MARCH 2016 AT 6PM. CORFE VILLAGE HALL**

**PRESENT: Cllr J Harrison (Chairman), Cllr C Brown, Cllr C George, Cllr D Bradbeer, Cllr J Jackson.
Also present: Mr D Royle (Treasurer Village Hall Committee) and three members of the public.**

3145. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Cllr K Brown & Cllr B Lenthall.

3146. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

Cllr Harrison: Almshouse Trust, Cllr C Brown: Village Hall Committee. Cllr J Jackson: Planning application for The Coach House, Barton Grange.

3147. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD JANUARY 5th 2016.

The Minutes having been circulated prior to the meeting were accepted and signed as an accurate record.

3148. MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES.

Planning: After 6 weeks TDBC finally responded yesterday to the Clerk's letter re the ramp driveway and drainage at Pickeridge Cottage, stating it is in accordance with the plans. Parish Council concern remains that the design forces rainwater in the direction of Church Cottages. TDBC will be thanked for their reply but also advised that residents will be referred to them in the event of future flooding.

Flooding: Neil Bailey was advised to speak with Cllr Lenthall but no contact has been made since the last meeting. Public comment was made that recently there have been drainage channels across the public footpath. This will be investigated.

Corfe Fete: Next planning meeting is Saturday 19th March, 5pm, at The Old Vicarage. All welcome.

3149. UPDATE ON s106 FUNDING.

The overdue funds have still not been received by TDBC from the developers, Compass. The demand should have been sent out last summer at the tipping point of the 6th house occupancy but was not pursued until recently. Until funds are received the Queens Acre projects cannot be progressed. The administration by TDBC of this legally enforceable levy has been shambolic. TDBC must be pushed to settle the funds.

Cllr Harrison arranged a meeting with Cllr Ross Henley (SCC) regarding speed signs and also raised the Queens Acre play area project with him. Cllr Henley pledged a Health & Wellbeing Grant of £250 towards this. This will help with the additional costs of removing old equipment and surface re-barking.

3150. VILLAGE HALL.

Cllr K Brown had raised concerns that the Village Hall Committee and the Parish Council had drifted apart in their working relationship. The terms of the arrangement have remained unchanged since the Tenancy Agreement in 1989. The renewal of Parsons' contract for 2016 to maintain Queens Acre had highlighted the need for both organisations to be transparent in their expenditures, seeking best value for the village. Two separate insurance policies cost over £1100 p.a. and may be cheaper if amalgamated. The Parish Council's tie-in period with Came and Co ends in May. Cllr George is still waiting for quotes for a joint insurance policy but this will entail a new valuation of the hall. The Council agreed that the hall's insured rebuild cost was excessive at £300,000. The hall's insurance policy covers the user groups' own equipment on site. Enquiries will be made as to

this cost as part of the annual premium. Cllr George stated that groups using the hall should have their own insurance policies which should be provided to the Hall Committee and reference to insurance cover should be made on the booking forms. Hall repair/project invoices are settled via the Parish Council with VAT being paid out from the Parish account and then reclaimed, saving a considerable amount for the Hall. However, the Parish has expenditure in excess of £727 p.a. for Queens Acre; only £565 is met by TDBC grant and kind donation from the Charity for Allotments. The annual precept does not cover basic costs and any increase impacts directly on villagers' Council Tax. Cllr George suggested that the shortfall in the costs of Queens Acre could be shared between the Committee and the Council.

Cllr Harrison will attend the Hall's AGM, and with Cllr George and Cllr C Brown work together with David Royle to arrange a rebuild valuation for the village hall.

3151. REPORTS OF PORTFOLIO HOLDERS.

- a. **PLANNING:** The Clerk reported that retrospective permission had been granted to works already undertaken at Blackdown Barn. Any local objection to the application to extend The Coach House would be monitored. If none raised the Council would also not have any observations.
- b. **HIGHWAYS:** Nothing to report.
- c. **RIGHTS OF WAY:** Nothing to report.
- d. **WEBSITE/SOCIAL MEDIA:** Cllr George confirmed that the website received 1700 worldwide hits between Aug- Dec 2015. Annual advertising income is £130 if renewals are maintained, and exceeds the annual hosting/domain costs.
- e. **SPEEDWATCH:** Cllr Harrison & Cllr C Brown met with Cllr Henley (SCC) to discuss 40mph speed signs for the northern approach to the village (National speed limit at present). The 30mph signs are often obscured by hedging on approach. An average recorded speed of 39mph shows vehicles are braking after rather than before those signs. Highways disagree that there is a need for change despite the SID statistics and Police presence confirming that the village officially has a speeding problem. Speedwatch teams will recommence this month if volunteers can contact Cllr Brown. The simple presence of volunteers in hi-vis does have an impact on speed, also the presence of even one parked vehicle. Cllr C Brown will continue to pursue the need for further signage and SIDs. The possibility of a section of road painting to give a narrower appearance was discussed. Cllr Harrison will discuss with Cllr Henley.
- f. **VILLAGE HALL:** David Royle is seeking volunteers for a working party for tidying up outside once the weather improves. Electrical repairs had been made. The 100 Club ticket price increase to £12 still maintained sales at 2015 numbers. Public comment was made on flooding outside the hall and David gave reassurance this is being addressed. The Hall AGM is on April 19th.

3152. FINANCE.

Current balance 1/3/16: £4750.68 (£3327.87 V.Gateway). Total VAT to reclaim £81.02

Payments authorised pre meeting: £430.80 village hall electrical repairs.

Payments to be authorised: £200 Clerk's wages Jan/Feb, £7.56 postage costs.

Parsons' contract for Queens Acre 15 cuts @ £47.50 (not incl VAT) has been renewed for 2016.

Website income in January £30.

£250 donation gratefully received from the Charity for Allotments towards Queens Acre costs.

3153. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS.

No reports received.

3154. CORRESPONDENCE.

- Notification received from SCC of 'Somerset Day' on 11th May, with events planned in the county for the weekend of 14/15th May.
- Gaynor Lewis had advised the Clerk of the national campaign Clean for the Queen, encouraging local communities to spruce up their communities before the Queen's 90th in June. The official weekend for such projects is March 4th. It was agreed it was too late to participate. The Parish Council would not be organising any special events for the birthday.

3155. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

Following discussion it was agreed to trial a later start time of 7pm for the rest of the year's meetings, to hopefully enable more members of the public to attend. In future Agendas will be posted on both the hall's notice board and outside the church. Space on the church board doesn't normally allow for the Minutes, which are also on the website. The Clerk apologised for not displaying January's Minutes.

May's Parish Council Annual Meeting would follow the Annual Meeting of the Parish of Corfe.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was closed at 6.50pm

Date of next meeting – Tuesday May 3rd 2016 - 7pm – Annual Meeting of the Parish of Corfe and Annual Meeting of Corfe Parish Council.